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ALSAGER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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R E P O R T

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE

DISTRICT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- H.P. HARPUR, M.D., (Died 5th
January, 1956)

L. RICH, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G.,
D.P.H. (Appointed

SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR - S. HAIGH, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

To the Chairman and Members of the Alsager Urban District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1955.

It is with deep regret that I have to record the death of Dr. H.P. Harpur, M.D., your late Medical Officer of Health who would in normal circumstances be presenting this report. His services to the District are well known, and he will be very much missed.

During the year, there were 130 cases of Measles notified, but no cases of Whooping Cough or Scarlet Fever are recorded. There has been an increase in the estimated population of over 200, despite the fall in the birth rate. It is also satisfactory to record that there has been no death of a mother in child-birth.

In a survey, carried out by the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, to assess the number of houses unfit for human habitation and suitable for inclusion in Slum Clearance, Alsager has the proud distinction of having no such areas of properties within its boundaries. Apart from a very few individual unfit houses, the standard of housing in the Urban District is remarkably high.

I wish to thank your Clerk and the members of his Staff for the assistance they have rendered to me in the compilation of this report, and particularly to your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Haigh, without whose help, I certainly could not have been in the position to present this Annual Report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health.

The figures in brackets throughout this report are for 1954.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Births

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid.1955	11.2	(14.4)
Live birth rate for England & Wales per 1,000 of the population	15	(15.2)
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	39.4	(52.6)
Still birth rate per 1,000 total population	.51	(.88)
Still birth rate for England & Wales per 1,000 total population	23.1	(23.5)
	.34	.36

Infantile Mortality

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	2 (1)	1 (-)	1 (1)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Deaths

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population	8.8 (9.7)
Death rate for England & Wales per 1,000 of the pupulation	11.7(11.3)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year:-

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	-	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	6	4	2
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	1	-
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	7	4	3
Coronary disease, angina	5	1	4
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
Other heart diseases	4	-	4
Other circulatory diseases	-	-	-
Influenza	1	-	-
Pneumonia	1	1	-
Bronchitis	2	2	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	2	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	6	2	4
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	-
All other accidents	2	-	2
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
Total	46	23	23

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes:-

	<u>No. of Deaths</u>
Puerperal Sepsis	- (-)
Other Maternal causes	- (-)
	<u>- (-)</u>
	<u>==</u>

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births 0 (0)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA

Care of Mothers and Young Children

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the St. Mary's Schools on the afternoon of the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays. This Clinic is in the charge of Miss E.G. Smith, the Health Visitor, assisted by voluntary helpers. The mothers attend here, not merely to have their children weighed, but to receive advice on the diet and matters of health education. The present standard of child care is particularly high and a large amount of the credit for this is due to the work of the Health Visitors and Nurses, both in the Infant Welfare Clinics and when visiting the homes.

The Divisional Health Committee was delegated the duties of the sale of Welfare Foods for Infants, Pregnant and Nursing Mothers. These foods consist of National Dried Milk, Vitamin Tablets, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice, and to carry out this function, a Centre was established at the Council Premises in Lawton Road, where on three days a week, the members of the W.V.S. voluntarily undertake its sale and distribution. In addition, the voluntary helpers at the Infant Welfare Centre also sell these Welfare Foods.

The table below will give some indication of the numbers attending at the Clinic.

Infant Welfare

<u>New Cases</u>			<u>Total Attendances</u>			<u>No. of Clinics held</u>	<u>Cases seen by Doctor</u>	<u>Average per Clinic seen by Doctor</u>
<u>0-1</u>	<u>1-2</u>	<u>2-5</u>	<u>0-1</u>	<u>1-2</u>	<u>2-5</u>			
73	-	-	641	165	139	28	195	6.9
(83)	(-)	(-)	(588)	(119)	(127)	(28)	(135)	(4.8)
<u>New Cases</u>			<u>Total Attendances</u>			<u>No. of Clinics held</u>	<u>Average per Clinic</u>	
<u>Ophthalmic Clinic</u>	4	(9)	16	(29)	10	(13)	1.6	(2.2)
<u>E.N.T. Clinic</u>	10	(14)	15	(15)	12	(12)	1.2	(1.2)

Midwifery

The midwife for the district is:-

Mrs. E.L. Pedley, 6, Audley Road, Alsager. Telephone: Alsager 583.



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Whooping Cough Immunisation

Pre-school children	1	(6)
School children	1	(-)
	<u>2</u>	<u>(6)</u>
	====	=====

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria and Whooping Cough)

Pre-school children	50	(56)
School children	3	(1)
	<u>53</u>	<u>(57)</u>
	=====	=====

Primary Vaccination

Pre-school children	30	(37)
School children	-	(7)
Adults	1	(2)
	<u>31</u>	<u>(46)</u>
	=====	=====

Re-Vaccination

Pre-school children	-	(-)
School children	1	(-)
Adults	5	(6)
	<u>6</u>	<u>(6)</u>
	=====	=====

Ambulance and Sitting Case Car Transport

The work of the ambulance in Alsager continues at a fairly high level and I am pleased that there are very few complaints. It is hoped, in the near future, to provide a new ambulance for our district.

Ambulance Figures - 1955

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Mileages	1568 (1953)	1514 (1856)	1891 (2002)	1636 (1655)	1767 (1891)	1842 (1765)	1841 (1831)	1834 (1913)	1723 (2161)	1780 (2121)	1720 (1823)	1596 (1565)
Journeys	60 (72)	58 (65)	66 (70)	58 (61)	66 (78)	70 (71)	68 (67)	68 (74)	64 (86)	64 (77)	64 (65)	59 (62)
Patients	146 (321)	169 (318)	277 (341)	260 (279)	249 (291)	254 (268)	301 (269)	301 (269)	285 (273)	274 (365)	321 (305)	229 (215)

Domestic Help Service

There has been a slight increase in the number of cases attended during the year. There is no doubt that much more could be done if more home helps were available. The availability of the home help very often makes it possible for a case to remain at home instead of having to be admitted to hospital or institution. The major part of the Home Help Service deals with old people who definitely prefer to remain in their own homes.

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided during 1955 are as follows:-

Home Helps employed during 1955

Full Time	-	(-)
Temporary	9	(8)
Casual	3	(7)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12	(15)
	===	===

Home Helps employed at 31st December, 1955

Full Time	-	(-)
Temporary	7	(5)
Casual	-	(1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7	6
	===	=====

Applications received during 1955

Confinement	7	(6)
Sickness	3	(3)
Tuberculosis	-	(-)
Aged and Infirm	4	(5)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	14	(14)
	===	=====

Cases attended during 1955

Confinement	5	(5)
Sickness	3	(2)
Tuberculosis	-	(-)
Aged and Infirm	9	(8)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	17	(15)
	===	=====

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following Table gives the number of cases of Infectious diseases notified during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1955.

Disease	Age distribution												Total Cases Noti- fied	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over			
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Measles	1	8	17	13	16	74	1	-	-	-	-	-	130	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-

Tuberculosis

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1955 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1946.

Notifications - 1946 to 1955

	1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
<u>MALE</u>																				
Up to 1 year																				
1 - 5				1									1							
5 - 15				1																
15 - 25			1												1					
25 - 35			1		1		1		1				2							
35 - 45						1									1		1		2	
45 - 55													1						1	
55 - 65																				
65 and over													2							
<u>FEMALE</u>																				
Up to 1 year																				
1 - 5																				
5 - 15																				
15 - 25	1		1	1			1				1			3						
25 - 35	1		3		2		1		1								1			
35 - 45					1		1			1										
45 - 55																				
55 - 65																				
65 and over														1						
Total	2	-	6	3	4	1	4	-	2	1	1	-	5	5	2	-	2	-	3	-

Deaths - 1946 to 1955

	1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
<u>MALE</u>																				
Up to 1 year																				
1 - 5																				
5 - 15																				
15 - 25																				
25 - 35									1											
35 - 45			1																	
45 - 55																				
55 - 65																				
65 and over																	1			
<u>FEMALE</u>																				
Up to 1 year																				
1 - 5																				
5 - 15																				
15 - 25			1																	
25 - 35	1																			
35 - 45																				
45 - 55	1																			
55 - 65																				
65 and over																				
Total	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

Cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1955 were as follows:-

	Up to 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	3	7	-	4	-	14
Female Pulmonary	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	4
Male Non- Pulmonary	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	5
Female Non- Pulmonary	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The following sections of this report cover the work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department, and have been compiled by Mr. S. Haigh, the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Water Supply

Source:

The water is drawn from three Boreholes situated at Audley Road.

Treatment:

The water is filtered, softened and chlorinated at the source. For the past 3 years, No's. 1 and 2 pumps have been removed, overhauled and cleaned.

Quality:

Analysis shows that the water is suitable for all domestic purposes.

Quantity:

The Council have given consideration to the question of an additional supply of water, and have now proceeded to a stage when an application has been made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for a licence to abstract water under the Underground Water (Controlled areas) Regulations, 1949.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Council own and maintain two sewage disposal works at Day Green and Longview.

The Day Green Works are old and are now overloaded and consideration has been given to the modernising and enlarging.

The Longview Works have been cleaned and these works are in good condition, but show signs of overloading during storms. Additional sludge drying beds are required.

The sewerage from Close Lane area is discharged and treated at the works of the Royal Ordnance Factory.

The general sewerage of the district so far as it goes is considered satisfactory.

An extension to the sewerage system has been made during the year at Talke Road and Pikemere Road.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Council maintain a regular collection of Refuse Removal based on a Bonus system whereby the bins are emptied over a period of seven and a half working days.

The refuse is disposed of by tipping.

A number of earth closets still remain to be collected.

Housing

- (a) During the year the following action has been taken under the Housing Acts:-

Houses inspected	40
Houses where informal notice has been given	6
Houses where Statutory Notices have been served	1
Houses where defects have been remedied as a result of informal notices	6
Houses where defects have been remedied as a result of Statutory Notice	Nil
Houses where defects have been remedied by Council in default	Nil

- (b) Houses built by Private Enterprise:-

During the year ended 31st December, 1955, 23 houses were erected by Private Enterprise and 29 were under construction.

- (c) Houses built by the Council:-

During the year ended 31st December, 1955, 72 houses were erected by the Council, and 12 were under construction.

- (d) Total number of Council Houses since 1945:-

Houses	458
Prefabs	10

- (e) In addition, in 1941, 404 houses and flats were built by the Ministry of Works for the Royal Ordnance Factory.

Food & Drugs Act

Regular visits were made to all food premises during the year.

Slaughterhouses:

All meat slaughtered in the district is inspected and the condition of Slaughtering and the Slaughterhouses are inspected.

During the year the following quantities of meat were condemned. Weight given in pounds.

<u>Beef</u>	<u>Veal</u>	<u>Mutton</u>	<u>Pork</u>
1590	8	119	288

Summary of Visits

Re-Visits	110
Refuse Collection and Disposal	32
Sewerage and Drainage	60
Sewage Works	20
Water Supply	20
Factories and Workshops	6
Caravans	4
Food and Drugs	12
Infectious Diseases	12
Public Houses	2
Nuisances	10
Rodent Control	12

Rodent Control

No serious infestation exists in the district, complaints are dealt with as they are reported.

The necessary test and treatment of the Council's sewers have been carried out.

Factories

Routine inspections of factories are made from time to time and the following table indicates the position for 1955:-

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	9	9	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	6	6	-	-
	15	15	-	-

General Description

1. Name of the vessel
2. Date of departure
3. Name of the captain
4. Name of the crew
5. Name of the passengers
6. Name of the cargo
7. Name of the destination
8. Name of the agent
9. Name of the broker
10. Name of the consignee

Particulars

1. Name of the vessel
2. Date of departure
3. Name of the captain
4. Name of the crew
5. Name of the passengers
6. Name of the cargo
7. Name of the destination
8. Name of the agent
9. Name of the broker
10. Name of the consignee

Particulars		Particulars		Particulars	
1. Name of the vessel		2. Date of departure		3. Name of the captain	
4. Name of the crew		5. Name of the passengers		6. Name of the cargo	
7. Name of the destination		8. Name of the agent		9. Name of the broker	
10. Name of the consignee					

